

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 181535Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9512

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - OVERSEAS NATIONAL AIRWAYS (ONA)

REF: ROME 13336 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED FURTHER TELEX DIRECT FROM ONA NEW YORK (THORNTON) ON AUGUST 17 AGAIN REQUESTING EMBASSY ASSISTANCE. TELEX STATES MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND (MAC) HAS APPROACHED ONA FOR A SEP 7 FLIGHT TO SIGONELLA, BUT THAT MAC REQUIRES CONFIRMATION THAT ONA HAS ITALIAN AUTHORIZATION. ONA THEN ASKS EMBASSY WHAT PROGRESS IT HAS MADE WITH CIVILAVIA.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH LOCAL ONA REP, CAMILETTI, WHO AGREED TO INFORM ONA THAT NORMAL EMBASSY PROCEDURES DO NOT ALLOW FOR TELEX REPLIES AND THAT CONTENTS OF EARLIER ONA TELEX HAD ALREADY BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT (SEE REFTEL). EMBOFF ALSO SAID EMBASSY AWAITING FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT, BUT THAT EVEN IF DEPARTMENT ASKED US TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS THEY PROBABLY WOULD BE UNSUCCESSFUL IN LIGHT OF THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT'S NEGATIVE DECISION AFTER REVIEWING THE CASE.

3. CAMILETTI (PLEASE PROTECT THROUGHOUT) SAID HE HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR EXCEPTION FOR MAC FLIGHTS, AS ONE ALTERNATIVE, IN HIS REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL REVIEW OF THE CASE. THIS APPEAL WAS BASED ON DAMAGE DONE TO U.S.-ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONS RATHER THAN ON STATUS OF MAC CHARTER AS NON-COMMER-

CIAL FLIGHT. CAMILETTI SAID HE AGREED THAT NOTHING COULD NOW BE DONE TO GET RELIEF FOR ONA. CAMILETTI REVIEWED FACTS IN CASE ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, RECALLING, WITH STACK OF TELEXES IN HAND, THAT CAPITOL AIRWAYS HAD RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FOR JUNE 20 FLIGHT BUT HAD NOTIFIED CIVILAVIA ON MAY 31 THAT FLIGHT HAD BEEN CANCELLED. REQUEST FOR FLIGHT WAS THEN REVIVED BY NATIONWIDE LEISURE CORPORATION AND AWARDED TO ONA WHICH "FOR-GOT" TO GET CLEARANCE UNTIL 24 HOURS BEFORE FLIGHT TIME. CAMILETTI SAID HE HAD SPELLED OUT RISKS TO ONA IN TELEPHONE CALLS: A) TURN BACK OF FLIGHT BEFORE LANDING, (B) TEMPORARY IMPOUNDING OF AIRCRAFT AFTER ARRIVAL AND C) SUSPENSION. ONA DECIDED SEND FLIGHT ANYWAY AGAINST CAMILETTI'S ADVICE. FINALLY, CAMILETTI SAID ONA HAD FEW FRIENDS IN CIVILAVIA BECAUSE IT WAS NOTORIOUSLY TARDY IN PROVIDING DOCUMENTATION AND FREQUENTLY OMITTED REQUIRED INFORMATION.

4. WE UNDERSTAND MAC MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERING ONA AS A CANDIDATE TO OPERATE SEP 15 FLIGHT TO CAPODOCHINO. BEAUDRY

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